

## **MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING**

Office of Services to the Aging  
7109 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing  
April 18, 2008

### **Minutes**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and reiterated the role of the Commission, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Rose Gill, Jerutha Kennedy, Chun-Keung Leung, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Amne Talab, William Walters IV, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

Mary Gardner, Thomas Rau and Ramesh Verma

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)**

None

#### **OSA STAF PRESENT**

Cindy Albrecht, Bonnie Graham, Sharon Gire, Laura McMurtry, Cherie Mollison, Neelam Puri, Sally Steiner, and Scott Wamsley

#### **VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT**

Carol Barrett and Karen Courneya

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Wright made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

#### **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Bollinger made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Pawelski seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

#### **INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS**

None

#### **OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Gire announced the Office of Services to the Aging will be re-locating to the Chandler Plaza Building in downtown Lansing. No date has been set.

#### **Budget Update**

Director Gire stated that she will present the proposed OSA 2009 budget to the House Appropriations sub-committee next week. It will go to the House with changes

approved by the Senate. These changes include the “roll-up” of the Healthy Michigan Fund (HMF), which will eliminate line item funding for specific programs supported by the fund. This will impact HMF funding allocated for home-delivered meals. On a more positive note, the Senate increased funding for the OSA Care Management Program by \$690,000. A \$100,000 allocation was also included for the Senior Olympics to be held in Rochester, Michigan this summer.

#### Meeting Updates

Attended a meeting hosted by the Administration on Aging to develop strategies for improving the Alzheimer’s Demonstration grant program through changes to the Older Americans Act (OAA).

#### Project 2020: Fulfilling the Promise of the Older Americans Act

Director Gire reported that a new initiative, Project 2020: Fulfilling the Promise of the Older Americans Act, involving the National Association of State Units on Aging, Administration on Aging, and National Association of Area Agency Directors has been unveiled. The initiative builds on the recognition of the aging network as a good investment by many different sectors of the federal government and knowledge that community-based care is a more efficient, effective way of providing long term care services for the majority of older adults. If successful, the initiative could result in the allocation of significantly more resources for the aging network in coming years.

A brief discussion followed.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **Approval of PY 2007-08 Michigan Older American Community Service Employment Program Reallocations (MOACSEP)**

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, stated that two area agencies on aging have notified OSA of projected under-expenditures in MOACSEP funds for PY 2007-08 and have requested that the unexpended funds be reprogrammed to support additional MOACSEP positions in other Planning and Service Areas. Ms. McMurtry requested Commission approval to re-allocate PY 2007-08 MOACSEP funds in the sum of \$25,000 from Region 8 AAA and Region 10 AAA to Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works!

Ms. McMurtry noted that Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works! requested additional funding in order to serve participants on waiting lists in Macomb and Oakland Counties. Ms. McMurtry explained that unspent MOACSEP funds cannot be carried over from one fiscal year to another. OSA’s re-programming policy allows funds to be maximized so that as many as possible mature workers can benefit from the program; and also ensures OSA’s ability to meet U.S. Department of Labor mandated performance measures.

A motion was made by Commissioner Newport to approve the PY 2007-08 MOACSEP Reallocations as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Commission approved with a 11-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

## **INFORMATION AND COMMENTS**

### **State Advisory Council (SAC) Interim Report**

Commissioner Walters, Chair of SAC, provided a summary of the work accomplished by the SAC in the past year. Commissioner Walters stated that 2007-2008 provided many challenges due to the constraints on SAC operations, in keeping with the fiscal realities of the State's budget. As a result, the SAC meetings were conducted by conference calls with the exception of one face-to-face meeting.

Commissioner Walters noted the Commission refined its charge regarding senior centers in 2007, citing the importance of these centers as vital community entities and the oldest component of the "aging network". Commissioner Walters indicated the role of senior centers and public expectations regarding their place in the community was paramount as evidenced by presentations conducted at this year's SAC meetings. Commissioner Walters summarized these presentations for the Commission. As a result of the information shared, council members identified the important functions of senior centers as; socialization, services, information, advocacy and support.

As part of their work this year, the SAC, in cooperation with the Michigan Association of Senior Centers (MASC), conducted an Internet-based survey of senior centers to better understand characteristics of these organizations in Michigan. These results will be shared at a future Commission meeting.

### **2007 Michigan Aging Information System NAPIS Client and Service Report**

Scott Wamsley, OSA staff, presented the 2007 NAPIS Client and Service Summary Report, which reflects an analysis of the 2007 programmatic data submitted to the Administration on Aging. Mr. Wamsley stated his report reflects information on services provided through the Older Americans Act and the state and local resources that support those programs, but does not include all services supported by OSA and the aging network. Mr. Wamsley also noted he has included information on waiting lists maintained by the network, which have increased significantly as resources become limited and demand increases. Mr. Wamsley summarized his report to show how many clients were served, services provided and the cost of those services during 2007

Mr. Wamsley stated the development of NAPIS is crucial to OSA's effort to create secure information systems that support informed decision-making and effective service delivery. A comprehensive profile of clients and services helps program planners at the state and local-level ensure that services reflect need and provide maximum benefit. This supports OSA's focus on keeping older adults and caregivers healthier longer, and maintaining a comprehensive network of services to support independence and allows individuals to receive services in the setting of their choice.

Discussion followed on the ways in which OSA uses the NAPIS data to plan and improve services. Commissioners thanked Mr. Wamsley for his very informative and insightful report.

### **2008 Gatekeeper of the Year Award**

Chairperson Kennedy stated that Consumers Energy has sponsored the Gatekeeper Program since 1987. On Thursday, April 17, 2008, she attended an awards luncheon to honor Tiffany Dewald as the 2007 Gatekeeper of the Year. Chairperson Kennedy noted that Ms. Dewald went above and beyond the call of duty to offer assistance to a

vulnerable older adult. Consumers Energy attendees were Tiffany Dewald, Call Center Representative, Customer Service Department in Alma (winner), Andrew Radvansky, Manager of Customer Service, Customer Service Department in Grand Rapids, Michael R. Crapo, Manager of Revenue Recovery, Revenue Recovery Department in Jackson, Stephan Kusterer, Call Center Manager, Customer Service Department in Saginaw, Julio Morales, Client lead, Regulatory Affairs Department in Grand Rapids, Debra Harmon, Corporate Customer Assistance Advocacy Manager, Regulatory Affairs in Battle Creek, Susan Suchecki, Senior Customer Service Representative, Consumer Affairs Department in Lansing, Tarah Wilson, Team Leader, Customer Service Department in Alma, Lori Stratton, Communications Consultant, Communications Department in Jackson, Fordine Williams, Administrative Specialist II, Consumer Affairs Department in Jackson, and Harry Sabourin, Photographer, Communications Department in Jackson.

Each month OSA selects one Consumers Energy employee as Gatekeeper-of-the-Month based on nominations received by the company. One of the monthly winners is then honored as Gatekeeper of the Year. Chairperson Kennedy stated the partnership with Consumers Energy has now extended beyond OSA to area agencies and service providers. Chairperson Kennedy thanked Consumers Energy on behalf of the Commission on Services to the Aging for their commitment to the Gatekeeper Program.

Chairperson Kennedy presented Ms. Dewald with a letter from the Governor, along with a certificate of appreciation. Director Gire presented Ms. Dewald with a plaque for her outstanding performance, commitment, and dedication for her work in making a difference in the lives of Michigan older adults.

#### State Plan Survey Report

Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, reviewed both the OSA and Commission survey results regarding the process for developing the state plan. Ms. Graham noted the one obvious finding from the surveys is that more time is needed to review and respond to the plan. Ms. Graham stated that OSA is targeting June 1<sup>st</sup> as the date by which the FY 2009 state plan amendments will be posted to the website to allow more public input and review. It is due to the Administration on Aging by August 1 of this year.

#### Commission Strategic Planning

Director Gire discussed the next steps in holding strategic planning sessions for the Commission. Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, introduced Carol Barrett from So What Evaluation Resources, Inc. who will be facilitating these sessions for the Commission. The Commission will meet with Ms. Barrett during lunch and before the public hearing to further discuss the goals for the strategic planning process.

#### Other

Chairperson Kennedy read a letter from former Commissioner Donna Wishart on behalf of Otsego County Commission on Aging thanking Neelam Puri, OSA staff, for her planning assistance and participation as a guest speaker at their agencies educational breakfast series entitled "Spirituality, World Religions and Cultural Diversity".

Commissioner Wilson stated that Area Agency on Aging 1-B is holding their 2008 Annual Community meeting and noted that Holliace Spencer, OSA Community Services Division Director, is being honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Director Gire announced that Older Michiganians' Day is June 11, 2009 in Lansing. This event is being planned by the Area Agencies on Aging.

Presbyterian Villages of Michigan will be holding a round table discussion with Josefina G. Carbonell, U. S. Assistant Secretary for Aging, on April 28 and Chairperson Kennedy has been invited to attend.

Commissioner Talab announced that on May 10, the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) will celebrate its 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner with an expected attendance of 2,500 people.

Chairperson Kennedy reminded the commissioners to register on line at [www.elderrightssummit.org](http://www.elderrightssummit.org) or call 1-866-400-9164 if attending the Elder Rights Summit on May 27, 2008.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on May 16, 2008, at the Grand Haven Community Center, Grand Haven. Following the Commission meeting a public hearing will be held from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the State Advisory Council will be on June 12, 2008, at the Holiday Inn West Conference Center, Lansing. Commissioner Bollinger will be the guest Commissioner.

### **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Newport and seconded by Commissioner Bollinger. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.